Opposition of 26 Per Cent Foreign Stake in Air India

1478. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Joint Action Committee of Air India union has opposed the proposed 26 per cent foreign stake in Air India;

(b) if so, their views on disinvestment of Air India; and

(c) Government's reaction to their views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The Joint Action Committee of Air India has given some suggestions in regard to the disinvestment process relating to: transparency; asset valuation; status as Designated International Air Carrier; retaining name, logo & mascot; employees' interest safeguards etc. These suggestions have been noted for consideration keeping in view all aspects and ramifications of the proposals.

Disinvestment of AI

1479. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an editorial in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 18th October, 2000 reporting that Air India stands to lose Rs. 600 crores in the coming year because of Ministry's plans to disinvest and distribute AI's right to fly;

(b) whether the Indian Pilots' guild and other international and domestic corporates airlines are in fray for 40 per cent stake in Air India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Indian Pilots' guild are against foreign airlines coming as strategic partners in Air India; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government to guild's fears, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 10th November, 2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF